



# EU IUU fisheries policy

**ANACEF**  
**11 December 2024**

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# ***IUU fishing: Global challenge***

*All States obligations in international measures: port, coastal, flag and market states*

- **1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**
- **1995 UN Fisheries Stocks Agreement (UNFSA)**
- **1993 FAO Compliance Agreement (FAO CA)**
- **2009 FAO Port State Measures Agreement (FAO PSMA)**
  
- **1995 FAO Code of Conduct for responsible Fisheries (FAO CdC)**
- **2001 FAO International Plan of Action against IUU Fishing (FAO IPOA)**
- **2014 FAO Flag State Performance Guidelines (FAO FSP)**
- **2017 FAO Catch Documentation Schemes Guidelines (FAO CDS)**
- **2022 FAO Transshipment Guidelines (FAO TR)**

## ***IUU fishing – the role of the EU***

- *The EU is the largest importer of fishery products*
- *The EU has a key role to play in the global fishery production and market and must therefore take a key role in the fight against IUU fishing*
- *Measures – in the 2000's – already adopted at regional and international level were not sufficient enough to fight IUU fishing*
- *Objectives of IUU regulation: improve efficiency of controls and ensure traceability of all fishery products traded with the EU*

# ***The EU IUU Regulation***

## *Legal Framework:*

- *Council Regulation No 1005/2008 (IUU Regulation) – in force since 1 Jan 2010\**
- *Implementing regulation (No 1010/2009):*
  - *amended 7 times: first time in January 2010 (No 86/2010) and last time in March 2020 (No 2020/423)*
- *EU IUU vessels list: Commission Regulation No 468/2010 – most recently amended by No 2024/2413*

*\*most recent important amendment in November 2023 through article 4 of Regulation (EU) 2023/2842*

# ***The EU IUU Regulation***

- *Does not introduce any new conservation and management measures*
  - › Applies international rules, laws and regulations of states, including international conservation and management measures
  - › Aims at improving management and control of flag States over their vessels in line with international law
- *Transparent and non-discriminatory instrument*
  - › Applies to EU Member States and third countries
  - › All fishing vessels under any flag in all maritime waters
  - › All marine fishery products, processed or unprocessed, traded with the EU
  - › Seeks to prevent EU nationals from conducting IUU activities under any flag, in any waters

# ***The EU IUU Regulation***

## ***Main components***

- *Provisions on the inspection of third country fishing vessels in ports of a Member State*
- ***The catch certification scheme***
- *The EU IUU vessel list*
- ***Cooperation with third countries/list of non-cooperating third countries***
- *Provisions concerning EU nationals*
- *Assistance to third countries*
- ***System for mutual assistance and administrative cooperation***



European  
Commission

# The EU catch certification scheme

Main operational tool: catch certification scheme, validated by flag State (in line with Art. 94 of UNCLOS)

(I) EUROPEAN UNION CATCH CERTIFICATE									
Document number:		Validating authority							
1. Name		Address			Telephone		Fax		
2. Fishing vessel name		Flag - home port and registration number			Call sign		IMO number or, if not applicable, other unique vessel identifier (if applicable)		
Fishing licence no - valid until				Mobile satellite service no Telefax no Telephone no Email address (if issued)					
Fishing gear <sup>(1)</sup>									
3. Description of product			Type of processing authorised on board		4. References to applicable conservation and management measures				
Species	Product code	Catch area(s) and catch date(s) (from - to) <sup>(2)</sup>	Estimated weight to be landed in kg	Net catch weight in kg	Verified weight landed (net catch weight in kg) <sup>(3)</sup>				
5. Name of master of fishing vessel or of fishing licence holder - Signature									
Name of master of fishing vessel			Signature and date		Transhipment date/area/position		Estimated weight (kg)		
Master of receiving vessel:		Signature		Vessel name		Call sign		IMO number or, if not applicable, other unique vessel identifier (if applicable)	
7. Transhipment and/or landing authorisation within a port area:									
Name	Authority	Signature	Address	Telephone	Port of landing (as appropriate)	Date of landing (as appropriate)	Seal (stamp)		
					Port of transhipment (as appropriate)	Date of transhipment (as appropriate)	Name and registration number of receiving vessel	Seal (stamp)	
							IMO number or, if not applicable, other unique vessel identifier (if applicable) of receiving vessel		
8. Name and address of exporter		Signature		Date		Seal			
9. Flag State authority validation:									
Name/Title		Signature		Date		Seal (stamp)			
III. Transport details: See Appendix									

## ***CATCH - Digital transition***

- *Transition from paper catch certificates to digital*
  - ***Single EU wide IT platform leading to a more even implementation in Member States***
  - ***Allows for risk-focused verifications based on risk analysis***
  - ***Provides for EU-wide quantity management ensuring that there is not fraudulent use of catch certificates***
- *With the revised regulation, compulsory submission of catch certificates and accompanying documents through CATCH by EU importers applicable as of 10 January 2026*



# Cooperation with third countries

## The dialogue process at a glance

### PRE-IDENTIFICATION



The European Commission opens a formal dialogue during a minimum of 6 months.



If the country improves its situation, the 6-month period can be prolonged and ultimately the pre-identification can be removed.

### DELISTING

Continued dialogue can lead to restoring the import of legally caught fisheries products.



### IDENTIFICATION



If the country does not address the problems, it will be identified by the European Commission as non-cooperating.

A ban of all products for which the catch certificate is validated after the Decision enters into force.

### LISTING BY THE EU

Fisheries products caught by fishing vessels flying the flag of these countries cannot be imported into the EU while the countries remain listed.

The Decision triggers further measures, including a fishing ban for EU vessels in these countries' waters.





# Cooperation with third countries

## The dialogue process

### Overview of existing procedures with third Countries

Country	Pre-Identification	Pre-Identification Revoked	Identification	Listing	Delisting
Belize	<a href="#">November 2012</a>	N/A	<a href="#">November 2013</a>	<a href="#">March 2014</a>	<a href="#">December 2014</a>
Cambodia	<a href="#">November 2012</a>	N/A	<a href="#">November 2013</a>	<a href="#">March 2014</a>	
Cameroon	<a href="#">February 2021</a>	N/A	<a href="#">January 2023</a>	<a href="#">February 2023</a>	
Comoros	<a href="#">October 2015</a>	N/A	<a href="#">May 2017</a>	<a href="#">July 2017</a>	
Curaçao	<a href="#">November 2013</a>	<a href="#">February 2017</a>			
Ecuador	<a href="#">October 2019</a>				
Fiji	<a href="#">November 2012</a>	<a href="#">October 2014</a>			
Ghana	1. <a href="#">November 2013</a> 2. <a href="#">June 2021</a>	<a href="#">October 2015</a>			
Kiribati	<a href="#">April 2016</a>	<a href="#">December 2020</a>			
Korea	<a href="#">November 2013</a>	<a href="#">April 2015</a>			
Liberia	<a href="#">May 2017</a>				
Panama	1. <a href="#">November 2012</a> 2. <a href="#">December 2019</a>	<a href="#">October 2014</a>			
Papua New Guinea	<a href="#">June 2014</a>	<a href="#">October 2015</a>			
Philippines	<a href="#">June 2014</a>	<a href="#">April 2015</a>			
Republic of Guinea	<a href="#">November 2012</a>	N/A	<a href="#">November 2013</a>	<a href="#">March 2014</a>	<a href="#">October 2016</a>
Senegal	<a href="#">May 2024</a>				
Sierra Leone	<a href="#">April 2016</a>				
Solomon Islands	<a href="#">December 2014</a>	<a href="#">February 2017</a>			
Sri Lanka	<a href="#">November 2012</a>	N/A	<a href="#">October 2014</a>	<a href="#">February 2015</a>	<a href="#">June 2016</a>
St Kitts and Nevis	<a href="#">December 2014</a>				
St Vincent and Grenadines	<a href="#">December 2014</a>	N/A	<a href="#">May 2017</a>	<a href="#">July 2017</a>	
Taiwan	<a href="#">October 2015</a>	<a href="#">June 2019</a>			
Thailand	<a href="#">April 2015</a>	<a href="#">January 2019</a>			
Togo	<a href="#">November 2012</a>	<a href="#">October 2014</a>			
Trinidad and Tobago	<a href="#">April 2016</a>	N/A	<a href="#">September 2023</a>	<a href="#">November 2023</a>	
Tuvalu	<a href="#">December 2014</a>	<a href="#">July 2018</a>			
Vanuatu	<a href="#">November 2012</a>	<a href="#">October 2014</a>			
Vietnam	<a href="#">October 2017</a>				

# ***Cooperation with third countries***

## ***Tangible results in third countries***

### ***Improved governance***

- *Revised legislation*
- *Strengthened sanctions*
- *Cooperation, coordination and mobilisation of different relevant authorities*
- *Political commitment to the highest level*

### ***Strengthened MCS***

- *Improved vessel monitoring*
- *Reinforcement of inspections and controls*

### ***Improved traceability throughout the supply chain***

- *Cross-checking and validation of CC data*



**A new dynamic...**

# ***EU actions: third countries, Member States and stakeholders***

- *The European Commission is committed to assist third countries in the implementation of the IUU Regulation, in cooperation with EFCA:*
  - Technical assistance through IUU dialogues
  - SFPA's: e.g. sectoral support for developing MCS to fight IUU fishing
  - PESCAO, PEUMP, ECOFISH (INTPA Regional projects) – new projects about to be launched
- *EU Member States receive regular training on the implementation of the IUU Regulation (EFCA)*
- *Stakeholders are regularly updated on the state of play*

***Thank you!***

*All information, including regulations, guidance notes, etc., can be found on:*

[https://ec.europa.eu/oceans-and-fisheries/fisheries/rules/illegal-fishing\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/oceans-and-fisheries/fisheries/rules/illegal-fishing_en)